

#10
Paper March 24 1825

W. B. H.

Inaugural Essay
on
Rheumatismus acutus

by
John V. R. Wise of V.^o
March 10th 1825.

Copy of the
1825

Handwritten text, likely a letter or document, written in cursive script. The text is faint and mostly illegible due to fading and bleed-through from the reverse side. It appears to be a formal letter or a record of some kind.

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Rheumatismus Acutus. Class Pyrexia
order Phlegmasia of Cullen, who defines
it to be a disease from an external
and often evident cause, attended
by Pyrexia, pains about the joints
following the course of the muscles,
fixing on the larger joints in preference
to those of the feet and hands.
increased by external heat.

It occurs most frequently in autumn and
spring, when there are sudden vicissitudes
of weather; but may happen at any
season if those changes are for the
time present.

Sometimes the pains take the precedence
of the fever; but in other cases the fever
appears first, and the local affection
does not discover itself till a few days
afterwards.

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The symptoms are the same as of fever from any other cause. Such as cold chills. Succeeded by a full, frequent and hard pulse. flushings of the face and partial heats; aversion to food, general lassitude, and depression of spirits, more or less of soreness and aching over different parts of the body. The tongue becomes coated with fur of a brownish hue, the thirst insupportable bowels costive, urine scanty and high-coloured, depositing during the course of the disease a turbid sediment. In the course of a short time pains are felt in different parts: most commonly the larger joints - the Hips and Knees of the lower, and shoulders and elbows of the upper extremities. We should recollect, however, that

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the smaller joints are not entirely
free from its attacks; more especially
the ancles and wrists.

The Goutia suffers an exacerbation
very evening, which is most considerable
during the night, at which time
the Pains also are much aggravated,
and exceedingly prone to shift from
one joint to another.

The limb which is the immediate
seat of the disease, sooner or later
becomes affected with redness and
swelling at the coming on of
which Symptoms, there is most generally
an abatement of the pain: but this
does not invariably happen.

We are told by Cullen, that early
in the course of this disease there is
some sweating, but that it is seldom

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few or copious, and seldom either relieves
the pain or proves critical.

Blood drawn in this disease exhibits
an inflammatory or sily appearance.
Rheumatism differs from common inflammation
in this (viz) that it very rarely terminates
in suppuration, or gangrene; some
Authors have gone so far as to affirm
that it never does terminate in
this manner; but this is contradicted
by the observation of Dr Good, who
says, that, in one or two instances he
himself had been witness to an
extensive abscess. I have also seen
a case of the same nature, which
recurred to my preceptor Dr John Purnell
of Maryland. Here, it became necessary
after trying by every possible means
to bring about absorption of the pus
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to have an African disease
it is to be known, &c. &c. &c.
The patient was so situated in the
being, this made to discharge;
the last however not in the account
and the patient probably secured
great diversity of African states
related to the most common
state of the disease; some suppose
it to be seated in the stomach,
which others hold it to be seated
in the liver & wood and sometimes
in the lungs & membranes. This again
will tell us, that the mixed
cases are also attended, & that
some of the cases to be seen
which is attended the disease as
a general disease. we can account
for the difference of opinion in

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in other cases, it is attributed
to the want of opportunities
or circumstances the medical
Anatomy of the disease.

A Hereditary structure is supposed
to be a dam or a wall, the source
cause of the disease; but says Dr
it is known that the disease can
be drawn only from general
reasoning and not from demonstration.
The fact, that, some persons are
more liable than others to the disease,
which equally exposed to the exciting
causes, would seem to favour
such an opinion. However, this
does not seem to be a true indication
of hereditary disposition. The constitution is undoubtedly
the more or less the cause.

[illegible]

in the application of force to the whole, or part of the body, when unduly heated by exercise or friction, wearing wet or moist clothes, or sleeping in damp sheets; the skin, and its various vessels, color and condition of the skin may be enumerated as sometimes having the foundation of this disease.

We now come to the consideration of the proximate cause, and here again we shall find great difference of opinion amongst writers. I believe I suppose the proximate cause to consist in a derangement of sympathy rather in the limb. This hypothesis I believe has been long abandoned

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18. The cause of the present day
is parlous too much of the
nature of the universal principles
which govern the world, and which
is the most common cause
which produces the
present state of the world,
and a thousand others in the
course of time, which cause
an increased interest of passion
and resistance to the present
state of the world, which
the new system with the view,
which I entertain relative to the
present state of the world.
I agree with the old world in the
the increased determination of
the world, which view is given, to
the action of each, which with



the rebellaries, by which they are stimulated & encouraged to persevere in their course. They are unable to protect their settlements, a stagnation of blood takes place, & disease prevails in consequence of immobility. The latter is a fact, & we have seen before establishing the same. It induces an accumulation of undischarged secretions & leads to the part thus affected. The diseases with which accumulation is most liable to be complicated are gonorrhoea, gonorrhea, & phthisis, and great difficulty is sometimes experienced in distinguishing between these affections. By favorable circumstances will generally prove

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to distinguish it from Gout, the
former is intermittent, comes in
more gradually, and has more
regularly marked exacerbations.
And it's clear remission. it is also
much less connected with symptoms
of dyspepsia, or disorders of motion
of the stomach; to which may
be added the seldomness ^{of} tooth
ache at attacks the joints of the
low and jaw, which we all
know is the most common seat
of attack of the Gout.

As regards to the other diseases
with which Rheumatism is liable
to be confounded, we may generally
arrive at a tolerably just degree
of assurance, by a minute comparison
into the previous histories and habits

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This disease seldom terminates fatally
unless by Metastasis, or Translocation
of action to some vital organ
or organ. Such cases are exceedingly
rare in comparison with the great
number affected, and hence we
may generally regard it as curable
of the disease.

The duration of an attack of
Rheumatism will depend in a great
measure on the mode of practice
that is pursued, & I should estimate
if properly managed, longer than
three or four weeks.

Called to a case last winter
been treating of; we saw scarcely
be at a loss as to the order
measures to be adopted, the complaint

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retention of blood is indicated;
and the propriety of its retention
will be clearly indicated, both
by the good effects which it has
now produced, and by the
absence of the subsequent symptoms.
A German and an English author
and also an advocate the propriety
of bleeding in the first stages
which should be removed in
the cure. In a subsequent treatise
on the Epidemic disease from the year
175 to 180 he appears to reject
the practice of taking away blood
in phlegm, as he had before been in
the habit of recommending. On a
subsequent occasion however he still
appears partial to the practice of
bleeding.

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King, in the account of the disease
in the same, also informs us of the
successful treatment of acute Rheumatism
by repeated bleedings.

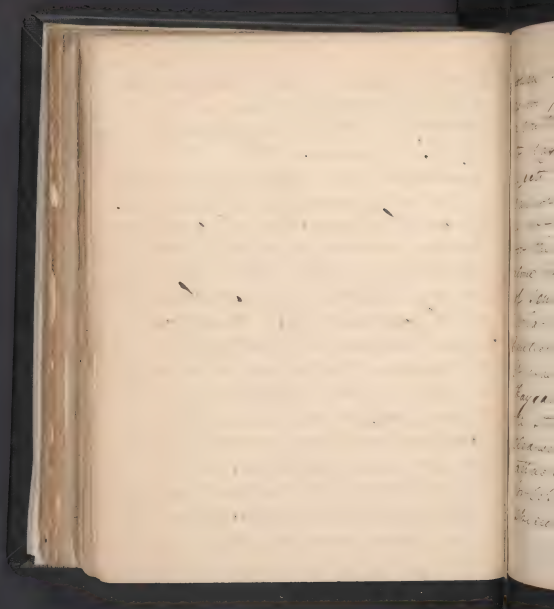
By "Cullen blood letting is considered
the chief remedy of Acute Rheumatism."
"The blood must be drawn (says
he) in large quantities, and the
bleeding is to be repeated, in
proportion to the frequency, severity,
and hardness of the joints, and
to the violence of the pain."

The same author of profuse bleedings
being apt to induce Chronic Rheumatism
seems to me to be entirely without
foundation; for I believe, that when
the acute is changed into Chronic
Rheumatism, it is caused rather by
debility, than want of blood letting.

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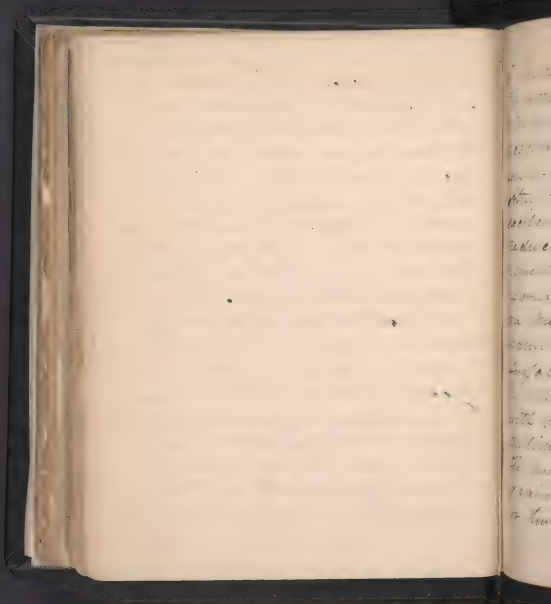
It is now time to review the progress
of the last operation in the
treatment in the management
of this disease.

Cathartics are also now resorted to
in the early treatment of the disease.
Under their operation, the curculionid
becomes irritated and the phlegmonic
diathesis increased. This practice
has been criticised by our authors
on the ground, that, they do as
much harm by the motion which
the curculionid is put to as by
the heat to which it is exposed.
Whether this be the
fact or not, I am unable to say
from my own observation. But
we are certain the results are
often of a serious character.



when he says, that "the intention
is to present the practice as
a continued process - you say
to day, we are to run to the
sects in a whole, & in a part" -
I see it in the case of the
- the case. The best practice
in the present is the same as the
same - in some with an idea
of John and the world.

What shall we say of the use of
Emotions in the case of this disease?
It was the intention of the practice -
to administer the same, while
the disease, and would be probably
cleared, at the very first of the
attack, and we are told by
Wolfe & Liberman, that in the
practice of the same in the same way



in the winter season, when
the attack is attended with
inflammation of the lungs, and great
resemblance of this is in
some of the ^{one} and ^{two} cases.

After violent action and great
excitement, have been successfully
reduced to the state mentioned
sometimes, we may then resort
to blood-letting; these
are medicines which promote the
natural discharge from the
surface of the body, for the
purpose of powder in combination
with Calomel and tartarized
emulsion is an excellent formulae.
The daily exhibition of one or two
grains of jalapine is, and one
or twelve of nitre constitute the

[illegible]

an excellent antidotic power, in
most of the cases, to which the
above formula is well adapted
to the Secondary Stage of the
disease, when the acute
has been sufficiently subdued, as
measures formerly pointed out
or a compound of the two
should be kept up in obstinate
cases, for it is not in a variety
than twenty four hours. Many other
discharges might be employed;
but as most of them are of minor
importance, we shall not recur to
them, and in some very cases.
A little difference of opinion remains
as to the propriety of using the Peruvian
Bark in acute Rheumatism, whilst
one set of practitioners, most highly

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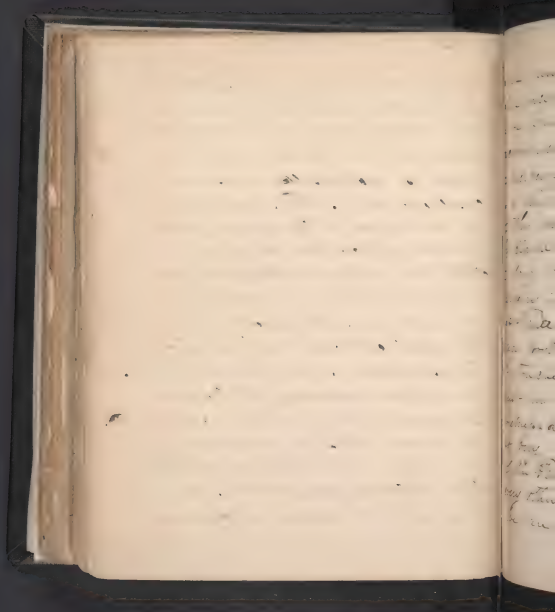
extol it, there are others, who
utterly condemn its use in the
early or inflammatory stage.
Among those who speak favorably
of it, may be mentioned the
names of Haggath, Leche, and
Lauder. The former of whom
i.e. Haggath, goes so far as to
say that "Bark in Rheumatism
is only inferior to mercury in
syphilis." I have never seen the
medicine tried in the early
or inflammatory stage, but
should suppose it injurious,
and with Professor Chapman
should say "that generally
speaking it is best suited
to the Convalescence, to recruit
strength and confirm recovery."

[Faint, illegible handwriting on the left page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.]

[Faint, illegible handwriting on the right page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.]

Local applications of cups and leeches
are of great service in the cure of
this disease, and may be employed
when general bleeding from one
cause is inadvisable, & as an
auxiliary to it. They should never
be neglected, if the pain, and
inflammation are severe.

After the inflammation has been
reduced by the remedies former is
pointed out, we shall find
the application of a blister to
the pained part of much benefit.
is a local remedy the Saturna
thamoniund has been recommended.
the leaves steeped in brandy,
and applied to the limb, is the
best mode of application, it is
said that it sometimes affords



Much relief.

When all the remedies above enumerated
have failed to give relief, it is
recommended to resort to the use
of mercury with a view to salivation
as a dernier alternative. The problem
of this medicine has been discussed
by Clarke, a writer in the discussion
of lung diseases. He says that "though
mercury holds other uses of the greatest
importance, it never failed to aggravate
and protract the complaint when
it touched the mouth." In this
case I disagree with him, having
witnessed its beneficial effects
so very frequently in the practice
of the Pennsylvania Hospital, where
every other remedy had failed.
We are told by Professor Cadmus

[illegible]

the cases do sometimes occur, when
the disease will not yield until
the mouth is touched; and to
recommence a radical cure the
mercurial exhibition must be sustained
for a considerable period.

When the disease is removed and
nothing, but its effects remain
the various tones become proper:
such as bark, mineral acids,
marital preparations &c. &c. the
stillness of the limb, which sometimes
follows, is to be overcome by
exercise, and friction.

The prophylactic management
consist in the employment of those
measures, which are calculated
to strengthen the body, and resist
it against the invasions of

in the p
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Hannel
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in
the diet
simple, a
as barley
jelly, dip.
Band a
the ear

agents which are most-instrumental
in the production of the disease.
I need hardly mention that wearing
flannel next the skin especially
during the winter season is of
great importance.

The diet should be of the most
simple, and abstemious kind, such
as barley water, rice water, currant-
jelly, dissolved in water, and other
bland articles. Animal food in
all cases should be strictly forbidden.

Ch

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acute Rheumatism

No 27 Samson St.

Willie Jones

Papier March 22^d 1825